Introduction to Psychology
Exit Competencies
February 4, 2008

I.   Knowledge Base of Psychology
   a. Explain why psychology is a science
   b. Identify the components of current perspectives in psychology and trace their historical roots.
   c. Gain awareness of ongoing themes in the field of psychology, for example:
      1. nature and nurture
      2. the interaction of mind and body
      3. free will and determinism

II. Research Methods in Psychology
   a. Distinguish between major methods of psychological research.
   b. Recite steps in conducting psychological research.
   c. Identify and critique research reported in popular literature.
   d. Recognize potential sources of bias.
   e. Recognize common descriptive statistics used in psychology.
   f. Identify ethical concerns in conducting psychological research.

III. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology
   a. Identify limitations of generalizing research.
   b. Challenge claims that arise from myth, stereotype, or untested assumptions by using scientific principles and evidence.

IV. Application of Psychology
   a. Describe major applied areas of psychology.
   b. Identify practical applications of psychology.
   c. Identify applications of psychology as applied to areas such as:
      1. health and medicine
      2. environment
      3. education
      4. public policy

V.   Sociocultural and International Awareness
   a. Recognize that psychology is an international discipline.
   b. Provide examples of how interaction among diverse people can challenge conventional understanding of psychological processes and behavior.

VI. Personal Growth and Awareness